New Polling Shows Support for Limiting Police Stops for Non-Safety-Related Traffic Infractions

As Americans increasingly grapple with the dangers of encountering the police in a traffic stop, new polling from Safer Cities and Data for Progress reveals voter opinions on a prominent solution: eliminating or limiting traffic stops for low-level infractions unrelated to safety, like equipment violations and expired registration.

**Voters across the political spectrum support limiting low-level traffic stops**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Do Not Support</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The poll also asked voters about the best approach to handling these violations, with options ranging from a traffic stop by an armed police officer to not actively enforcing the violations.

**A majority of voters don’t believe traffic stops by armed police are the right response for low-level traffic violations**

- A cracked windshield
  - Not actively enforced: 40%
  - A traffic camera or license plate reader: 23%
  - Unarmed civilian officer: 19%
  - Armed police officer: 17%

- A noisy muffler, excessive window tint, or hanging an air freshener on the rearview mirror
  - Not actively enforced: 31%
  - A traffic camera or license plate reader: 20%
  - Unarmed civilian officer: 23%
  - Armed police officer: 26%

- A single burned-out brake light or taillight
  - Not actively enforced: 29%
  - A traffic camera or license plate reader: 29%
  - Unarmed civilian officer: 20%
  - Armed police officer: 21%

States like Virginia and Oregon, along with cities like Philadelphia and San Francisco, have already enacted policies limiting non-safety-related stops, backed by research showing that doing so can improve traffic safety and reduce racial disparities in stops, with no impact on non-traffic related crime. As other jurisdictions consider joining this national movement, this polling should demonstrate to policymakers that these polices are not only sensible and equitable, but also popular with voters from both parties.